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does not mean that the work on tropical gill-fungi has been completed. Indeed, it has just begun, and collectors will now have a basis on which to do more satisfactory work. Mexico has hardly been touched and the same may be said for Santo Domingo and many other parts of the West Indies, as well as nearly all of Central America. Cuba is fairly well known from the extensive collections of Charles Wright, and from the work of many recent collectors. Martinique and Guadeloupe have been rather thoroughly worked by Pere Duss who sent his collections to Patouillard to be named. Jamaica is better known mycologically than Porto Rico, so far as the larger fungi are concerned, but both of these islands need to be worked more carefully.

If a careful mycologist could spend half of his time in tropical North America making specimens, notes and drawings, and the remainder in a good herbarium and library working them up, the results accomplished would be noteworthy.

Dr. Murrill discussed at length the wide difference existing between the species found in our tropics and in the temperate regions of North America, and he described and tried to explain the sporadic and scattered occurrence of the gill-fungi in portions of the tropics that he had visited. Professor Fink, who has recently been to Porto Rico, ascribes the infrequent occurrence of the gill fungi there partly to the great tropical heat and also to the fact that the development of the hymenophores is often spread equally throughout the year, instead of taking place all at once, as in colder climates."

Adjournment followed.

B. O. DODGE, *Secretary*

NEWS ITEMS

The Ecological Society of America in its *Bulletin* for March, 1918 (Vol. 2, no. 3), gives a most interesting report from the Committee on the Preservation of Natural Conditions for Ecological Study. This Committee was appointed in the summer of 1917 and consists of twenty members who are seeking information for a card index of all important ecological areas

which already are protected or are in need of preservation. This will include the following areas: forest, prairie, swamp, stream, bog, pond, shore, dune or desert communities of plants, especially those that are unique or very accessible. Copies of these record cards may be had from the Chairman, V. E. Shelford, 506 W. Iowa Street, Urbana, Illinois. Stations for such rare plants as the "Hart's-tongue" fern at Green Pond near Syracuse or the "*American Lotus*" at Great Sodus Bay, on Lake Ontario, or Swartzwood Lake, New Jersey, are certainly worthy of conservation and we hope that all who may read this notice will give their influence and assistance to this Committee.

Dr. E. B. Southwick, for many years the City Entomologist, and who managed the Shakespeare and Perennial Garden in Central Park with such conspicuous success, has been appointed Custodian of the Herbaceous Collections at the New York Botanical Garden. As Dr. Britton points out in a recent number of the *Journal* of that institution it is a peculiarly fitting appointment not only from a horticultural standpoint but because Dr. Southwick is a lineal descendant of Jonas Bronk, from whom the Bronx takes its name, and the collections of which he has charge are within a moment's walk of the Bronx River.

On May 20, the Brooklyn Heights Seminary Club visited the Brooklyn Botanic Garden in a body. The National Farm and Garden Association held its convention there May 23, and on May 28, the Annual Inspection by the Trustees, Garden Members and other invited guests was followed by a tea.